

Hawaii MARINE SPORTS

HAWAII MARINE C SECTION

APRIL 1, 2005



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

“Johnny-Ballgame” Bascuk chips his way across the Klipper fairways to land just a couple feet from the pin. Bascuk, a multiple-time All-Marine Team competitor, was invited by his Marines to play in the tournament.

SM&SP hosts Shank & Slice

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Sports Editor

Military members from around Oahu played their “best ball” in the SM&SP Shank & Slice tournament held March 24 at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course.

The 18-hole tournament, which started with a 12:30 p.m. “shotgun” start, allowed teams of E-5 and below to bring one boss who is a military member above E-5, per team, to compete for several prizes.

According to Gabby Black, SM&SP coordinator, the teams that compete had their names thrown into a drawing for prizes at the end of the tournament.

“This tournament is a little bit different than most people may be familiar with,” said Black. “Rather than awarding the team with the lowest score, all the teams that compete had an equal opportunity to win prizes after the tournament is over. This allows everyone just to come out and have a good time with it, and not really worry too much about score.”

One team, consisting of Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3, was in it to win from the very start.

“We came out here to play a good game of golf,” said Dustin Willcox, platoon sergeant of the repairable issue point platoon, CSSG-3. “But we’re also here to win. We’ve got a good team put together that should secure us the win.”

The “good team” included CSSG-3’s John “Johnny-Ballgame” Bascuk, a repeating All-Marine Golf Team member and a well-known threat on the Klipper fairways. Taking advantage of the “bring your boss” feature of the tournament, the team from CSSG-3 was prepared to play the best game possible. But with the winners being drawn from a hat, it was anyone’s game.

The team from CSSG-3 kept their game locked down tight throughout the course, keeping a 3-under-par score as they began the back nine. Confident they were leading the pack, the team from CSSG-3 began

See SHANK, C-6



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Winning team member Dustin Willcox (left) puts in a birdie on the 12th hole, courtesy of a near-perfect chip from teammate, John Bascuk (foreground). The two team members, from left to right between Willcox and Bascuk, are Vince Herrera and Joe “Pappy” Pastorcich.

Underdogs get the ‘W’

MCAF defeats MALS-24
in a 60–47 surprise win

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Sports Editor

In a razzle-dazzle display of sheer talent, Marine Corps Air Facility faced and defeated the Marine Aviation and Logistics Squadron 24 Bozz Hogg Outlawz, 60–47, March 21, in a hard-core game of men’s intramural basketball.

With the highest field goal percentage witnessed by the referees to date, the matchup between MCAF and MALS-24 was extremely entertaining to watch throughout the first half, as both teams put on a display for the crowd. MALS-24 coming into the game with an 11–4 record, may have expected the 5–9 MCAF team to be an easy win.

Everything from reverse layups to long bombs from three-point land resulted in nothing but net early in the game. Flawless passing games allowed both teams to move across the court with ease, challenged lightly by any sort of defense.

With both teams competing hard to gain an edge on their opponents, MCAF point guard Jeff Lemon stepped up to take control of the ball for his team, and allowed them the early lead with a couple key layups.

Outlawz guard Logan Carroway was a constant threat from beyond the three-point line, and his devastating repeated shots forced MCAF to re-think their game as they went into halftime neck and neck with the Outlawz.

“We have to start picking up the rebounds,” said MCAF center Ira “Debo” Dallam, as they discussed MALS-24’s tendency to prefer charging to the hole towards the end of the first half. “If we can get that ball cleared out, we’ll be good to go.”

Executing their plan as the second half began, MCAF watched as more of the same trend continued, and MALS-24 guard Curtis “Showtime” Burleson insisted on keeping the ball inside as he attempted layup after layup. While he may have been putting on a show, not many were tuned in, as his attempted layups only sank approximately 25 percent of the time, allowing MCAF the rebounds.

With much more time to spend with the ball in-hand, MCAF began exploring their options from the outside of the key during

See MCAF, C-6

CSSG-3 strides past HQBN, 48–42

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Sports Editor

Combat Service Support Group 3 defeated the Headquarters Battalion Demon Deacons, 48–42, March 21 at the Semper Fit Center, raising their record to 13–1 on the season as men’s intramural basketball nears the play-offs.

The game started out in the hands of CSSG-3, as guard Antwan Macon sank a long three-point shot and center Louie Reyna followed up inside with a jumper to tack two more on the board.

The Demon Deacons, not able to get any early field goals, found themselves shooting their game from the line as CSSG-3 had the early lead, 5–1. Repeating itself, the early game kept supporting CSSG-3 efforts to the hoop with Devaill McCoy, guard, scoring an astonishing reverse layup, followed by McKinsey Corbett’s three-pointer.

After a few minutes, the Deacons were able to get the ball in their playmakers’ hands, as Deacons center Michael Max and forward John Barros began to link up for some points.

With five minutes on the clock in the first half, Max’ layup was called back by the officials when forward Matt Schnelting followed him to the hoop and grabbed some rim.

Disappointed from the loss of points, the Demon Deacons got charged up to redeem their game, scoring just enough to go into halftime tied, 22–22.

At the start of the second half, the Demon Deacons seemed to lose their edge, as missed connections and poor coverage plagued their game, allowing CSSG-3 to get open players outside to make several easy three-point shots. Keeping their small lead over the Deacons, CSSG-3 repeatedly charged the hole and put the pressure on the Deacon defense. Not easily pressured, Demon Deacon guard Robert Mitchell stepped up to gain the first lead of the game for Headquarters Battalion with a fade-away jumper and two three-point shots. Enjoying their 39–36 lead, the Demon Deacons again began to miss their connections, and CSSG-3 was right there to grab a couple steals and re-gain the lead with guard, Julius Smith capping the drive off with a pretty layup.

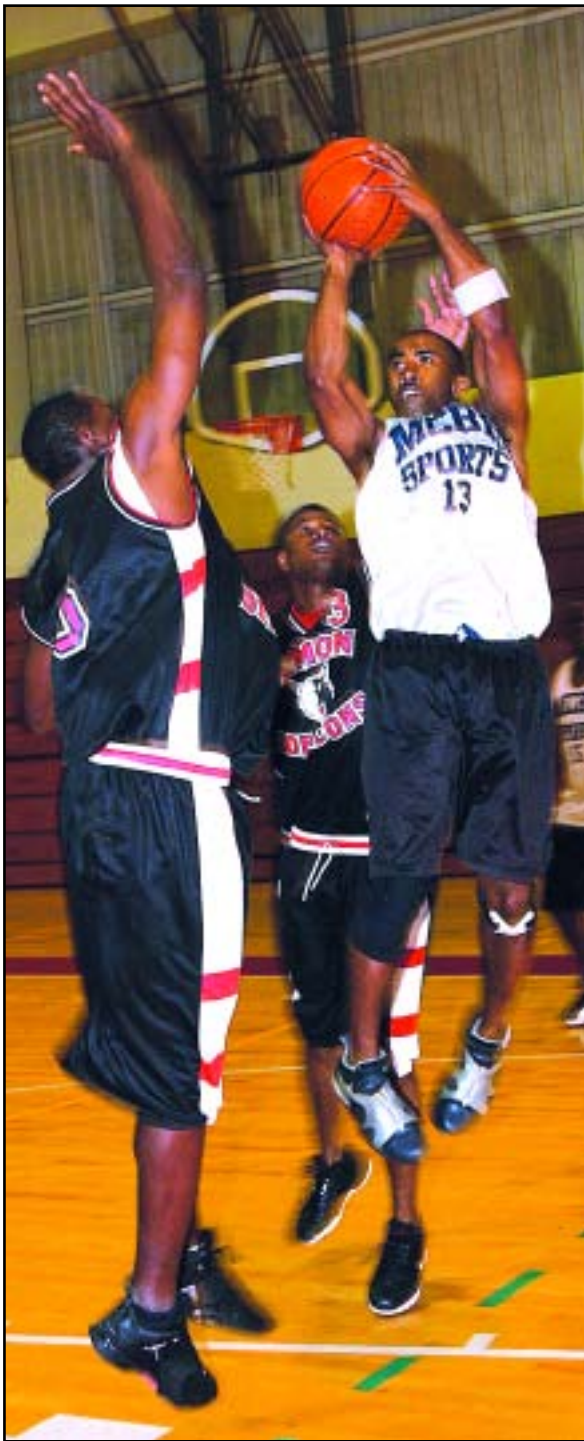
As the time ticked away, both teams struggled to keep solid drives together and, with just under a minute to play, Macon sealed it up for CSSG-3 with a foul-collecting drive to the hole that put five points on the board after he left the line. The score, 44–40 in the favor of CSSG-3, little could be done to stop guard Paul Stewart as he drove in the nail, passing the rock behind his head, into the hands of Macon, who laid up a shot that got the crowd to their feet.

With 16 seconds ticking down, the Demon Deacons had run out of options, and the game finished at 48–42, CSSG-3.

See CSSG-3, C-6



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee



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Above — Julius Smith (right), CSSG-3 guard, shoots a jump shot from just outside the key, as Demon Deacon center Michael Max (left), and forward, Robert Mitchell (behind), attempt to swat the ball.

Left — Antonio Brown (left), point guard for the Demon Deacons, drives past Antwan Macon, CSSG-3 guard. Both teams played an intense game, but CSSG-3 came out on top in the final minutes of the game, bolstering their intramural basketball record and adding one more loss to the Demon Deacons, who have been on somewhat of a losing streak throughout the past few weeks, since losing some of their players.

Swamp Romp 2005 to be held April 23

Edward Hanlon V
MCCS Public Relations

Break out your utility boots, but don't scrape the mud off just yet — the JN Chevrolet 11th Annual CSSG-3 Swamp Romp is right around the corner.

Oahu's dirtiest footrace returns to Kaneohe Bay on April 23, so start cross training now. The race will begin at the Boondocker building, neighboring the Marine Corps Exchange Annex parking lot. The starting gun will give runners their first chance to get into the combat training mood at 7 a.m. sharp.

"This event offers our community an opportunity to be a Marine for a day without the harassment package associated with being away from home for boot camp," mused Col. Brian Hearnberger, the commanding officer of CSSG-3.

Every year, the Swamp Romp boasts a course that gets even the grunts find grueling.

"The event is shaped around the kind of team training Marines get throughout our careers. It's an eye

opener for individuals. Successful teams will find that there is no room for individual athletes in this endurance race. It takes teamwork to negotiate the course that includes obstacles, mud, sounds of combat and more mud," added Hearnberger.

This event is open to the daring, and CSSG and JN Chevrolet are inviting everyone who thinks they can hack it to race. Runners must have a team of six, and must all finish together. Teams that finish without a teammate will be penalized 60 seconds from their total race time.

Awards and medals will be provided to the first, second and third place



nitely need it! Unit teams will be awarded CG's Fitness Series points for participation, and runners will be treated to Gatorade during and after the race.

The entry fee is \$102 for all teams (non-refundable), and includes a specially designed Swamp Romp T-shirt. Those registering after April 15 are not guaranteed a shirt on race day. Non-DoD civilians must register by deadline of April 15.

If paying by personal check, please include your social security and phone numbers. No registrations will be accepted after 2 p.m., April 22.

If you register after the April 15 deadline, the total team fee will be \$120.

Race packets may be picked up on April 21 or 22 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Semper Fit Center, Building 3037.

Teams may enter in the following divisions based on team members accumulative ages: young men — total age not greater than 120 years; warriors men — total age more than 120 years, but less than 210 years; masters men — total age greater than 210 years; women open — total age not greater than 210 years; masters women — total age greater than 210 years; mixed — 3 men, 3 women, any age.

"The course will be quite a surprise to the six-man teams running the race. This year its all about the swamp," dared Hearnberger.

Register now at the Semper Fit Center. Printable registration forms can also be downloaded at www.mccs.hawaii.com.

For the real dirt on the CSSG-3 Swamp Romp, call 254-7590 or 254-7597.

BASE SPORTS

Tuesday

Intramural Softball Coaches Meeting — There will be an organizational meeting for aspiring coaches for the Intramural Softball league, starting soon. The meeting will be held at the Semper Fit Center's Basketball Gym at 2 p.m. Call 254-7591 for additional information.

April 10

Semper Fit Seeks Résumés for England Half-Marathon — The All-Marine Running Team will compete against a Royal Navy and Royal Marines running team, May 25 – 30.

The half-marathon will be held in Plymouth, England. Marines who are interested must submit resumes no later than April 10.

Contact Joe Au, MCCS Intramural Sports coordinator, at 254-7591/90 for more information.

April 15 – 16

Dodgeball Tournament — The Single Marines & Sailors Program is hosting a dodgeball tournament to be held at Camp Smith, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the basketball court in Building 9; and at the Semper Fit Center on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event is free and open to all E-5 and below, and will be played in accordance with the National Amateur Dodgeball Association's rules.

For more information, call 254-7593.

April 30

10k Run Aboard MCB Hawaii — 3rd Marine Regiment, in coordination with the Athletic Branch of Marine Corps Community Services,

will conduct a 10-kilometer run aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii at 7:30 a.m. on April 30.

The start and finish area will be located at Pop Warner Field. A 1-mile Family Fun Run will be conducted at the conclusion of the 10k run.

This event is open to the general public. Awards will be given at the conclusion of the race event.

Ongoing

Kaneohe Bay Pool Closure — The Kaneohe Base Pool will be closed through May 1 due to deck resurfacing, barring weather delays.

For swimmers interested in lap and recreational swimming, The Officers' Club pool is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lap swimming and is open from 1 to 5 p.m. for recreational swimming.

The Officers' Club pool will be open to all hands for the duration of base pool repairs. The Kaneohe Base

Pool will open on May 1 for normal operational hours, which are: Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from noon to 5 p.m., closed on Mondays, and open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. for lap swimming, 1 to 5 p.m. for recreational swimming, and from 5 to 6 p.m. for lap swimming again.

Call MCCS Aquatics at 254-7655 for additional information.

Cheer on your Favorite Team — Head down to the Semper Fit Center every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 6:15 p.m. for men's intramural basketball.

Intramural baseball games hit Riseley Field Monday through Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Campground and Picnic Sites — For picnic and camping sites, Marine Corps Base Hawaii offers some of the most scenic beaches on the island.

Three of those beaches, Pyramid Rock, Hale Koa and Fort Hase, are available by reservation for picnics and parties from dawn to dusk. Hale Koa Beach may also be reserved for overnight camping.

Reservations are required. For reservations, call 254-7666 for Kaneohe or 477-5143 for Camp Smith.

Semper Fit Center Offers it All — The Semper Fit Center has an aerobics class for anyone and everyone trying to meet that New Year's resolution.

Check out as many of the following programs as you would like; Yoga, Cycling, Tai Chi, Cardio-Kick, Gut Cut, Step-Challenge, Water Aerobics, Pilates, Marathon Training and much, much more.

For class information, call the Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

Fishing Charters Available at MCB Hawaii — Spend the day aboard one of Mahalo Kai's charter fishing boats. Mahalo Kai has been serving MCB Hawaii since 1992, fishing the bountiful waters off the Windward side.

For more information, stop by the Base Marina, located in Building 1698, across from Hangar 101, or call 254-7666/7667.

Inexpensive, Fun Entertainment — Look no further for economical entertainment Mondays through Thursdays, all E-5 and below can receive free rental shoes and discounted games at only \$1.50 a game.

This discount is good for open play, but does not qualify for tournaments, leagues or unit functions.

Call the K-Bay Lanes at 254-7693 to get the spin.

Color Pin Special — Every Wednesday, roll a strike. When a colored pin is in the headpin position you can win up to three free games of bowling. All patrons are welcome to take advantage of this deal. If you make the play, you win!

Call the K-Bay Lanes at 254-7693.

Parents for Fitness — This cooperative baby-sitting effort is available at the Semper Fit Center for children ages 6 weeks and older.

All active duty service members and their families may participate; however, PFFP participants are required to volunteer baby-sit three times per month.

Call 235-6585 for more information.

Paintball Hawaii — Cost is only \$25 per person, and the fee includes one air refill, equipment and the field fee. The field is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 265-4283 for Friday appointments.

Semper Fit Group Exercise

April 2005

Monday 8:45 – 10 a.m. — Step 2 It 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. — Gut Cut 4:45 – 5:45 p.m. — Cycling (\$3 / \$1 Active Duty) 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. — Kick Interval 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. — Pilates	Thursday 6 – 7 a.m. — Cycling (\$3 / Free to Active Duty) 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. — Muscle Conditioning 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. — Butt Cut 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — H.I.T.S. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. — Step & Tone
Tuesday 6 – 7 a.m. — Cycling (\$3 / Free to Active Duty) 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. — Muscle Conditioning 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. — Yoga 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — H.I.T.S. 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. — Butt Cut 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. — Step & Tone	Friday 8:45 – 10 a.m. — Step 2 It 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. — Gut Cut 4:45 – 5:45 p.m. — Cycling (\$3 / Free to Active Duty) 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. — Pilates
Wednesday 6 – 7 a.m. — H.E.A.T. 8:45 – 10 a.m. — Step Challenge 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. — Gut Cut 4:45 – 5:45 p.m. — Cycling (\$3 / \$1 Active Duty) 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. — Pilates	Saturday 9 – 10:30 a.m. — Step & Tone

Note: A book of 10 single-class coupons for \$2 each can be purchased for \$15 at the Semper Fit Center.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

HTMC Plans Two Weekend Hikes

Saturday, join the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club on a 5-mile, intermediate hike in Hawaii Kai. From the Pahua Heiau, hikers will scamper up the lava rock slope, scurry along the ridge while scanning the interesting escarpment to the left and the valley on the right. After a final push through ironwood trees, scenes of Waimanalo can be enjoyed.

Reach coordinator Laura Owens at 595-9023 for detailed information.

Sunday's trek takes hikers to Kaipapau Gulch in Hauula for an 8-mile, intermediate ramble. Yes, it's a long way just to swim under a cold waterfall, but getting there is half the fun. The journey will criss-cross Kaipapau Stream over slippery rocks, meander through dense rain forest, and wind past rock dikes. Be alert to flash flood conditions.

Reach coordinator Clayton Kong at 545-2467 for more information.

Hikers should meet at Iolani Palace at 8 a.m. for the hike. A \$2 donation is requested for each nonmember, age 18 or over. A responsible adult must accompany children under 18.

Bring lunch and water on all hikes and wear sturdy shoes and clothing. Firearms, pets, radios and other audio devices are prohibited on hikes.

Check out the HTMC Web site at www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3660 for more information.

2005 Sports Car Racing Gears Up

The Hawaii Region Sports Car Club of America will host six major races in 2005 and Solo II races on Oahu and Maui.

Solo II, or Autocross, is held at the Hawaii Raceway Park at Campbell Industrial Park on

Oahu and costs \$25 per driver. About 70 to 90 cars, from stock vehicles to race cars, usually compete. The event is purely amateur, but anybody can participate.

Each driver receives four runs through the sports car course, and the driver with the single fastest time in the class wins.

Points acquired throughout the year accumulate for prizes and trophies presented at year's end. Minimum participation in more than half of the year's races is required to be in the running for points and the run-off championship.

Races are scheduled as follows: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Nov. 13 and Dec. 26. For more details, call Curtis Lee at 262-5987.

The Wheel-to-Wheel and Solo I racing events are regional sports car races at Hawaii Raceway Park. All drivers must pass a driver's school to obtain a competition license, as the cars are raced at speeds of up to 140 mph, and passing is permitted.

Both the driver and vehicle must comply with a number of safety features before they are granted race entry.

Future races will be on the following dates: May 15, July 10, Sept. 5 and Nov. 26.

For more details, call Ed Hollman at 488-1782.

State Offers Free Outdoor Education

The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources is offering education classes for the public. Subjects covered include firearms and archery safety, survival and first aid, wildlife identification, conservation, regulations, game care and outdoor responsibility.

Attendance at two sessions is required for certification. Classes are open to anyone 10 years or older who enjoys the outdoors — not

just hunters.

The next two-day session is Friday from 5:45 to 10 p.m. and April 9 from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Classroom A-212 at the Waianae Public Library, 85-625 Farrington Hwy, Waianae.

A picture ID is required. For more information about outdoor education, or to sign up for this course, call the Hawaii Hunter Education Program at 587-0200 or visit www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dcre/home.htm.

The Scenic Haleiwa Metric Century

The Hawaii Bicycling League, The Honolulu Advertiser, City Mill, North Shore News, and the Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Hawaii are teaming up to sponsor a 25k, 50k and 100k bicycle race, April 24, scheduled to start and finish on the North Shore.

Starting in Haleiwa Town at the Kaiaka State Park, riders will follow the North Shore towards Swanzy Beach Park, 100 kilometers away, near Kaaawa, and will turn around at their respective aid stations at the 25-kilometer and 50-kilometer marks. Snacks, drinks and mechanical support will be provided along the route, and a festival will take place at the North Shore Marketplace in Haleiwa at the conclusion of the race.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Semper Fit Center and must be mailed and postmarked by April 20. Entries will also be accepted the morning of the event. Packets, including relevant ride information, can be picked up April 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Waikiki Elementary. Look for the HBL banner and tent. T-shirts are distributed at the packet pick-up, and late registrants do not receive a T-shirt with entry.

Children under 14 must be accompanied on the ride by an adult, and a bicycle helmet must be worn and properly fastened at all times.

The cost of entry is \$30 for non-HBL members, which includes a six-month membership, \$20 for HBL-members, \$13 for children 14 and under, and an additional \$3 for an XXL T-shirt.

For questions about the race, visit www.hbl.org, or call 735-5756.

Aloha Adrenaline Adventures

Aloha Adrenaline Adventures offers many exciting activities that will surely make your trip to Hawaii an unforgettable one.

Choose from a variety of adventures, which include: personalized tours, lessons, scuba diving, snorkeling, mountain climbing, spelunking, hiking, whale and dolphin watching, beach horseback riding, sailing and fishing.

Located in Honolulu, call 271-8886 or visit www.adrenalineadventures.com for more information.

Registration Open for 2005 JAL Honolulu Triathlon

Registration for Honolulu's premier triathlon — the 2005 JAL Honolulu Triathlon is now online at www.honolulutriathlon.com.

The amateur race will be held April 17, and will begin and end at Kapiolani Park. Mail-in registration forms can also be found in Athletes Hawaii Magazine, which is available at most Hawaii sporting goods stores.

Registration costs are \$100 for individuals and \$125 for teams.

For more information, visit the JAL Honolulu Triathlon Web site at www.honolulutriathlon.com.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Briefs

Advertise sports and recreational activities of interest in the *Hawaii Marine*.

E-mail items to editor@hawaiimarine.com or fax items to 257-1289.



The Bottom Line

(Editor’s Note: “The Bottom Line” is the **Hawaii Marine’s** weekly sports commentary from two sports aficionados who rarely see eye-to-eye when it comes to America’s one true obsession — sports. Chances are you’ll either agree with one of their takes or disagree with both. The **Hawaii Marine** welcomes your e-mails of no more than 250 words. We will print the top comment of the week from our readers. Send “Readers Strike Back” comments to editor@hawaiimarine.com. Remember, “**If you don’t speak up, you won’t be heard.**”)

Who will win the NCAA Championship?

Sgt. Joe Lindsay

The Goat

“Meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the fair,
Don’t tell me the lights are shining
Any place but there,
We will dance the hoochee koochee,
I will be your tootsie wootsie,
If you will meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the fair!”

— Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis: Music by Kerry Mills; Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling

Not since the 1904 World’s Fair has a hotel room in St. Louis been so hard to come by. People are descending upon “Gateway City” in droves, and the only arch they’re concerned about is the trajectory on the jumpers of the basketball players from Michigan State, North Carolina, Illinois and Louisville.

After one of the most exciting Elite Eights in NCAA history, which saw three of the four games go into overtime, the Final Four has finally reached its Mecca on the Mississippi.

Illinois vs. Louisville

The “Fighting Illini” have been ranked number one for so long in all the polls that many fans from the Midwest actually believe that rankings still matter now. Well, they don’t. Nothing matters now except scoring one more point than the other team. Illinois has proven they can do that against any team

in the nation — save Ohio State. The Illini guard trio of Dee Brown, Luther Head and Deron Williams is scary good; and Illinois proved they could snatch victory from the jaws of defeat against Arizona. Louisville did the same thing against West Virginia, but even more impressively, they did it with their best player, Francisco Garcia, fouled out. Nod goes to Louisville in a great match up.

Michigan State vs. North Carolina

Michigan State is the surprise team in the Final Four. But, with four Final Four appearances in eight trips to the tourney under coach Tom Izzo, people should stop being surprised by the Spartans. North Carolina, in their 16th Final Four in school history, are led by Scott May, Raymond Felton, and Rashad McCants. Michigan State simply doesn’t have the horses to match up. Carolina wins it going away.

Bottom Line: North Carolina vs. Louisville: The NCAA Championship game could just as easily be dubbed Rick Pitino vs. Roy Williams, and for good reason. Louisville, with Larry O’Bannon, Ellis Myles and Juan Palacios has the frontcourt guns to match up with Carolina’s May, and if the Cardinal’s backcourt tandem of Garcia and Taquan Dean can do their part, Louisville will be in a position to win at the end. And the Tar Heels don’t want to put Pitino in a position to win at the end – because he will. Louisville cuts down the nets in St. Louis, Louis(ville).

Capt. K.D. Robbins

The Professor

When Clark W. Griswold found he, Ellen, Rusty and Audrey lost within the city limits of St. Louis on National Lampoons Vacation, the chance to catch the Final Four en route to Wally World never crossed his mind. So, just as the gentleman chose to direct Clark and Ellen just past “Rib Tips,” to the “Torino with no wheels on it,” The Bottom Line will steer you towards the 2005 NCAA National Champion.

As always, despite any temptation to partake in St. Louis’ riverboat gambling, The Bottom Line offers its insight “for entertainment purposes only.”

Illinois

It has been a magical season for the Illini. One buzzer beater in Columbus away from an otherwise unblemished season is spectacular. The Illini are well coached. Bruce Weber is the NCAA’s Coach of the Year, as no one, not even The Goat, predicted a Big 10 Championship in Champaign.

Louisville

The run through March Madness has been business-like. Following a controversial number four seed, Louisville torched the region with aggressive defense, blinding speed and the most athletic backcourt in the tournament. Rick Pitino and his

Cardinals have been the poster boys for Conference USA in this their last season before jumping to the Big East.

North Carolina

Blue Heaven. What better a label for a team that boasts an NBA lottery pick off the bench. Roy Williams was brought in to do one thing: Win his first national championship. With this group, he has no excuse. Felton and McCants are the best backcourt in college basketball and Sean May is the best big man outside of Salt Lake City.

Michigan State

Two Big 10 teams in the Final Four, three in the Elite Eight. So much for the Big 10’s “down year.” Tom Izzo preps his teams better than most by scheduling top out-of-conference opponents week in and week out. This team’s toughness rests on inspirational leader Paul Davis. No team is tougher in the clutch.

Bottom Line: Illinois is good. Although Louisville seems like a runaway train, the train stops here. The Illini are just too strong up front for Pitino’s athletes to compete. All the preparation and toughness in the world can’t keep the Spartans in the game against Carolina. That said, North Carolina is the “Fab 5” on steroids. Hats off to Weber’s team for a magical run — Nets off for Roy Williams and the Carolina Blue.

READERS STRIKE BACK

“Maybe a 5-year-old kid might pick Shaq ...”

Dear Bottom Line,

I feel that Steve Nash should be the MVP this season. Yeah Shaq is a great player, but what kind of insight does it take to pick him? Maybe a 5-year-old kid might pick Shaq because he is always on TV. A real fan knows that

there are a lot more other players in the league that are more deserving. Have we even noticed the baseball season is coming up? I know it is only March with March Madness, but the National past-time is a little more important! Look for Sammy to lift the Orioles up to be more of a contender. There is a lot

more going on with baseball other then pre-season trades, how ‘bout Jose Canseco dropping dimes on steroid use. Little important don’t you think? Guess not to the bottom line.

M.G. Mooney III
Baltimore Highlands, Md.

Relocation affects children involved in competitive sports

Kelli Kirwan
www.LIFELines.usmc.mil

Self-esteem, physical fitness, and sportsmanship are all benefits of children playing competitive sports. While working with coaches and teammates, children learn life skills that benefit them long after trophies have been handed out.

But permanent change of station moves give military families the challenge of finding new teams, coaches and sports centers. Choosing a new team or sports program can be overwhelming, especially as your child develops talent in a particular sport. Here are a few ideas that might make it easier to find an appropriate team in your new area.

Slam dunk the base youth center

Almost every military installation has a youth center of some sort. Youth Centers often have sports programs that participate in city leagues. Talk with the youth sports director to determine if the base team is right for your child. The youth sports director will also have knowledge of sports that are available in the surrounding area that might not be offered on base.

Hit one home at the city parks department

The director of youth services for your city's parks and recreation department will have information on all youth sports offered in the area, as well as team histories. Knowing a team's performance record and whether there have been complaints registered against a team or coaches will help you make a more informed decision for your child.

The Parks and Recreation Department may be able to refer you to coaches and other parents you can talk with prior to signing up for a particular team. Be careful to separate the reputation of a team from actual fact; many winning teams develop a negative reputation, unfairly. Before dismissing a team based on hearsay, take the time to talk with coaches and parents.

Be true to your school

Schools often receive flyers and information from teams in the area. Talk with school staff or other parents to find out about teams. Attending a PTA meeting or other school function will help build a network of people with information about what is available.

It's fun to play at the YMCA

YMCAs around the country often offer team and individual sports. Visit with the sports director when deciding what program is best for your child.

Keep your eye on the ball

If possible, attend a couple of practices and observe the coaches' interaction with the children, as well as their knowledge of the sport. Teaching how

to throw a football is not all there is to coaching. Safety and injury prevention should be a priority as well.

If arriving during the off-season for your child's sport, interview the coaches. Talking with other parents who

have participated on city teams in the past can also give you some insight into the quality of teams available and the coach's style.

Being military does not have to mean sacrificing your children's athlet-

ic development. It does mean more effort may have to be made to find the right team or coaches for your child's particular needs. A little time spent in your new community will help you find the best program for your child.



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New kit can aid children at play

DLH, Inc. notes importance of protecting kids at play, releases new ‘Intelligent First Aid Kit’

Emily Dance

DLH, Inc.

Red Bank, N.J. — It’s inevitable that children playing outside are going to get hurt from time to time. From getting hit with a ball to falling off the monkey bars, there are endless possibilities and scenarios that can and will occur. For this reason, it’s important for teachers, playground aids and parents alike to have a through and dependable first aid kit on hand. In response to National Playground Safety Week, DLH is promoting their Intelligent First Aid™ Kit as an essential tool for protecting kids while they’re at recess or at their favorite play area.

The average first aid kit contains merely a small collection of bandages and gauze, leaving out the essential materials required to treat more major injuries. DLH has created the Intelligent First Aid™ Kit, which was designed to treat a wide variety of injuries by offering specific supplies and instructions. With the Intelligent First Aid™ Kit, injuries can be treated effectively in those crucial moments before medical help arrives.

The National Program for Playground Safety created National Playground Safety Week as a way to promote playground safety and address common injuries occurring during outside play. It is estimated that in the United States a child is treated in an emergency room for playground-related injuries every 2.5 minutes. For this reason, NPPS has made it their goal to allow children to continue to play outside by providing safe environments and encouraging adults to be prepared in the event an injury does occur.

“We believe in and encourage kids to get outside and play in parks and school playgrounds, but we also realize the importance of setting a standard for safety for these areas,” said Dave Hammond, president of DLH. “This is why we’re in full support of the goals of National Playground Safety Week. Our first aid kits coupled with the criteria set for providing safe play environments is the first step toward letting kids have fun while staying out of harm’s way.”

DLH’s Intelligent First Aid™ Kit is unique in that it organizes supplies and detailed treatment instructions into individually labeled and color-coded sections for different types of injuries including eye, burns, bites and stings. More specifically, for playground related injuries it includes portions for shock, head and spine, bone, breathing and bleeding injuries. With this kit on hand, parents and teachers can be ready to care for children in the event an injury does occur.

The Intelligent First Aid™ Kit has been named by the National Safety Council, the nationwide leader in safety solutions, as their “First Aid Kit of Choice.” The kit’s versatile design, which has received accolades from the Good Housekeeping Institute, lends itself to change as each of the individual injury replacement packs can be ordered to restock or for customization.

The entire Intelligent First Aid™ product line can be ordered at www.intelligentfirstaid.com or by calling 888-388-4854.

In the fall of 2005, DLH, Inc., in collaboration with the

National Safety Council, will introduce Home & Away, the talking first aid kit, which will offer the same unparalleled ease of use as the Intelligent design, but with step-by-step audio care instructions delivered via a chip affixed to each of the individual injury treatment cards. A press of a button will start, stop, or pause verbal instructions. For more information or to sign up for e-mail alerts on the availability of the talking first aid kit, please visit www.intelligentfirstaid.com.

DLH, Inc. is a privately held corporation headquartered in Red Bank, N.J., dedicated to designing innovative products that promote safety and health in the home and workplace.

Created and patented by DLH, Inc., Intelligent First Aid™ Kits have been featured on CNN, in *The New York Times*, Associated Press wire stories and other respected publications across the country. In addition, the product has been recognized as the “Best Buy in Safety for Your Family” by the Good Housekeeping Institute.

To schedule an interview with a representative from DLH or to request photos of the Intelligent First Aid Kit, please contact Emily Dance via e-mail (emilydance@quinnbrein.com) or by phone at (206) 842-8922. Electronic high-resolution images of the kit can also be downloaded at www.intelligentfirstaid.com.

SHANK, *From C-1*

to get complacent on the green of some back nine holes, dropping their score to 2-under-par.

“We’ve definitely got to tighten down our putting game,” said Bascuk as he chipped a clean shot to the 12th hole green, three feet from the



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

“Johnny-Ballgame” Bascuk chips on the Klipper 12th hole, landing his ball just a few feet from the hole, March 24.

CSSG-3, *From C-1*

“Our game started off really well,” said CSSG-3 coach, Reyna. “We started getting a bit complacent on ‘D,’ which allowed them to gain on us going into halftime, but I think our deeper bench won us the game tonight.”

With almost two full rosters, CSSG-3 was able to allow their players time to rest. The Demon Deacons, however, could hardly afford a substitution with their team barely able to fill a single roster.

“Our deep bench definitely allowed us to put some effective players on the floor tonight,” said Reyna. “We had Smith driving hard to the hole and Stewart was there to break down the defense, allowing us to score. But we definitely couldn’t have done it without McCoy, who is our high flyer. We’ve been sort of playing catch-up all season, getting off to a late start, but we’re glad to be pressing on with more wins late in the season.”

MCAF, *From C-1*

the second half, as Lemon consistently fed the ball to his teammates who were waiting outside for the easy three.

Frustrated by the mounting score, Burleson continued his efforts inside, though unsuccessful. Their score being kept alive by Carraway’s trustworthy three-point shots, MALS-24’s score began to fade as Lemon stepped up with some three-point-game of his own.

At the end of the game, there was little that could be done by MALS-24 to mount a significant comeback, and they were defeated by MCAF, 60–47 as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

“We were playing really well together,” said Dallam after the game. “We finally played like we could play. We did what we planned on doing by hitting our open shots and unfortunately for them, they sold us the game in the first half. In the second half, there was really very little they could do — it was too late.”



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Kyle Day, MCAF forward, makes a jump shot over the head of a defender during their game against MALS-24, March 21.

pin. “We’d be doing a whole lot better if we could just sink some of these puts!”

As the team approached their original starting point, their putting game seemed to improve and they were able to make a slight improvement on their score, finishing at 3-under-par, with a final score of 69.

As the teams approached the Kaneohe Klipper lanai area, many with similar scores as the CSSG-3 team, the aroma of pupu platters filled the air — it was time to announce the winners.

After shuffling all of the teams’ names, CSSG-3 was pulled out of a hat as the winner, and each received a token of appreciation from SM&SP officials.

“Justice has been served,” said Bascuk, excitingly, as the team’s name was announced. “The winning team was chosen, and even blindly, the truth was revealed.”

The prizes that were raffled off at the conclusion of the tournament included luau packages worth more than \$200 each, vacation packages to some of the other islands and other gifts.

“We had a great time out here, and I think all of the Marines and Sailors did too,” said Black at the close of the tournament. “We came out here to have a good time and enjoy this beautiful weather, and that’s exactly what we did.”



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Where the rubber meets the road

John Y. Lunning, a chief warrant officer 3 with the Provost Marshals Office, rides the bicycling portion of the 4th Annual Lanikai Triathlon, parts of which were held on MCB Hawaii, March 20. Lunning completed the 500-meter swim, 20-kilometer ride and 5-kilometer foot race, finishing in 1:24:28. An awards ceremony took place at Kailua Beach Park following the race.